

## WEEKLY WEDNESDAY UPDATE

The Weekly Wednesday Update is our newsletter which we email every Wednesday with oral health, health and policy updates from around the state and nationally.

To view past issues [click here](#).

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[\*\*Weekly Wednesday Update.\*\*](#)

## One More Step to Preventive Dental Care Funding

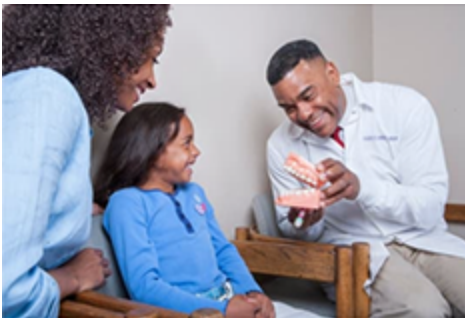
On Tuesday evening, the Legislature approved a budget that includes the \$4.8 million needed to cover preventive dental care for adults in the Medicaid program. Throughout this year, Oral Health Kansas and our partner have been advocating for funding for the Medicaid program to cover [basic preventive dental care for adults](#).



Legislative champions from both the House and Senate worked hard to secure the funding, and many partners contacted lawmakers to stress the importance of including preventive dental care for adults, along with the fillings, crowns, periodontal care, and dentures that were added over the last two years. The next step is for Governor Kelly to sign the budget bill. Then the coverage will go into effect on July 1, 2024.

The new funding will mark a significant change in how preventive dental care for adults is covered in Kansas. For the past decade, the Medicaid managed care organizations have been offering preventive dental care for adults, but now the preventive care will be consistent for all adults and will not change from year to year. This change will bring more predictability to consumers and providers and should increase adults' access to dental care.

Oral Health Kansas will keep you updated when the funding is fully approved. Contact us at [info@oralhealthkansas.org](mailto:info@oralhealthkansas.org) with any questions.



## Coming Soon: Dental Provider Advisory Group

To complement our Lived Experience Advisory Group, Oral Health Kansas is excited to announce our new Dental Provider Advisory Group.

Recognizing the importance of the dental profession in the health of all Kansans, we want to understand the experiences of Kansas dental providers who are delivering dental care across the state. By leveraging the voice of diverse dental professionals, we hope to bridge the gap between the dental workforce and the community, policy makers, and the insurance industry in order to ensure advocacy efforts hold the interest of communities and the workforce at their core.

Stay tuned as we launch our sign-up in the coming weeks!



## OHK Board and Staff Begin Strategic Planning

On April 26, board members and staff gathered to begin our 2024 strategic planning process. Thank you to Wichita State University Community Engagement Institute facilitators, Percy and Seth, for guiding the conversation. Taking the results from our ThoughtExchange survey that many of our supporters, followers and friends filled out earlier this year, we began making choices as to what OHK should continue to work on and what we can work towards in the future to improve the oral health in our communities and state.



We have an amazing board of directors with various backgrounds and each of them provided a valuable perspective!



## Get a Free Book at Safe Kids Day at the Zoo

This Saturday, May 4, the Shawnee County Oral Health Coalition will have a table at [Safe Kids Day at the Zoo](#) in Topeka. If you're one of the first **FIVE** people to stop by the table, you will receive a **FREE copy of [Goodnight Teeth: A Nighttime Brush Book](#) signed by the author.**

The book shows families how to make toothbrushing time fun and how to create oral hygiene routines. There is also a brushing chart in the book! Author, Davette McCoy, RDH is a member of the Dental Champion Class 8 and Oral Health Kansas Board Member. We'll see you there!

## Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians, and Pacific Islanders Heritage Month

May is Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians, and Pacific Islanders month. Oral health practices can vary significantly across different Asian and Pacific Islander communities, influenced by cultural traditions, dietary habits, access to dental care, and socioeconomic factors.



In some Asian cultures, traditional medicine and remedies are often utilized for oral health maintenance alongside modern dental practices. Certain cultures may have specific rituals or dietary habits that impact oral health, such as the consumption of betel nuts in some Pacific Islander communities, which can lead to oral health issues like gum disease and oral cancer.

Access to dental care can be a challenge for some Asian/Pacific American communities due to factors like language barriers, financial constraints, and lack of insurance coverage. Cultural perceptions of oral health and dentistry may also influence individuals' willingness to seek professional dental care.

Oral Health Kansas has a [webpage](#) with consumer resources, such as our one pager Tips and Tricks, resources for people with disabilities, pregnancy and oral health. The webpage, [Finding a Dentist](#), provides information on how to find safety net clinics that provide dental clinics, how to find a dentist that accepts KanCare or resources to help with access to dental care.



## Upcoming Events

- Course: An Introduction to Value-Based Care in Oral Health: Moving from Volume to Value, 1 CE. Click [here](#) for the course information.
- Self paced courses: [Providing Oral Health Care to Autistic Individuals](#) and [Caring for Individuals with Disabilities: Practical Considerations for Dental Providers](#).
- Alliance for a Healthy Kansas monthly meetings, [Events | Alliance for a Healthy Kansas 2022 \(expandkancare.com\)](#)
- **Webinar:** The Role of Local Public Health in Community Water Fluoridation, Friday, May 3, 12:00pm-1:30pm. Click [here](#) to register.
- **Save the date!** 2024 Conference on Oral Health will be Friday, November 8 at the Kansas State Olathe Campus, 22201 W Innovation Dr., Olathe, KS.

If you would like to add your event to this list, email [info@oralhealthkansas.org](mailto:info@oralhealthkansas.org).



Last month Oral Health Kansas Executive Director completed her six-year term on the [Kansas Dental Charitable Foundation Board of Directors](#). The Foundation's primary purpose is supporting the annual Kansas Mission of Mercy.



Tanya and the Oral Health Kansas team have been active volunteers at the Mission of Mercy for many years. While her time on the Board has ended, her time volunteering is far from over.



## Sugary Drink Display

We have Adult and Children's Sugary Drink Display's available for reservations. These displays are eye catching at exhibits, schools, library, dental offices, clinics and just about anywhere you see them!

We only have a limited amount so please sign up soon if you're interested in reserving one. Click [here](#) to learn more about sugary drink display reservations!

## Follow Us



**Oral Health Kansas** • PO BOX 4567 • Topeka, KS 66604

785.235.6039 phone • 785.233.5564 fax • [info@oralhealthkansas.org](mailto:info@oralhealthkansas.org)

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